and Planning Commission. The monitoring of actual utilization of funds by State Governments is done by the administrative Ministry.

Mahatma Gandhi Backward Regions Development Fund

3905. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Mahatma Gandhi Backward Regions Development Fund;

(b) the criterion for identifying any region as Backward;

(c) whether the district or State or Panchayat would be designated as Backward;

(d) whether any scheme has been mooted to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi; and

(e) the steps proposed to develop more such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The name of the scheme, approved in 2006-07, for development of identified backward districts is the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) and not the Mahatma Gandhi Backward Regions Development Fund.

(b) The Districts Component of the BRGF covering 250 districts includes all the 200 districts covered by National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in its first phase and 170 districts identified by the Inter-Ministry Task Group on Redressing Growing Regional Imbalances as backward. The criteria used in identification of districts include 17 parameters, namely, percentage of SC population, percentage of ST population, female literacy rate, ratio of secondary schools to population of specific age group, gross enrolment ratio for class I-VIII (age 6-13), per capita credit, per capita deposits, percentage of agriculture labourers, agriculture wages, output per agricultural worker, crude death rate, infant mortality rate, institutional delivery, full immunization, percentage of households without electricity, percentage of households with bank services and percentage of households with drinking water source beyond 500 metres.

(c) Districts have been identified as backward for coverage under the scheme.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Six Laning of NHS

3906. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has converted National Highways from four to six lanes;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years especially in Andhra Pradesh, State-wise; and

(c) the role of public-private partnership therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Government has given approval on 5.10.2006 for undertaking six-laning of 6500 km of National Highways through Public Private Partnership of BOT (Toll) basis following Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) pattern under NHDP Phase-V. This includes the entire length of NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh. The target date of completion of NHDP Phase-V is 2012.

(c) In Public-Private Partnership, the concessionaire (private sector) is required to meet the upfront cost of construction and the expenditure on annual maintenance. The viability of such projects is based on return on investment out of the future toll collection and Annuities payable by employer in case of BOT (Toll) and BOT (Annuity) Projects respectively.

Commissionerate for enforcing road safety norms

3907. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that around 85000 road accident deaths occur every year in the country;